

METHOD OF INDUCING CELL-MEDIATED PROTECTIVE
IMMUNITY AGAINST HIV USING LOW DOSES OF IMMUNOGENS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method and composition is disclosed for inducing a protective immunity against HIV by inoculation with immunogens in low doses that are sufficient to induce a sustained cell-mediated response to HIV but below the amount necessary to induce an offsetting humoral response. The immunogens available for use in this method include attenuated forms of the HIV virus, subunits of the HIV virus, inactivated HIV virus and subinfectious doses of live HIV virus, all delivered at low doses. These immunogens can be prepared with suitable carriers, adjuvants or diluents and administered either 10 intramuscularly, mucosally (e.g., orally), intravenously or 15 subcutaneously. The effectiveness of the initial dose of immunogen can be monitored for the presence of a sufficient cell-mediated response using a T-cell proliferation assay or 20 an interleukin-2 assay and monitored for the lack of offsetting humoral response using commercially available ELISA assays for anti-HIV antibodies. Depending upon the results of the cell-mediated response assays, supplementary or "booster" 25 inoculations may be appropriate.

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